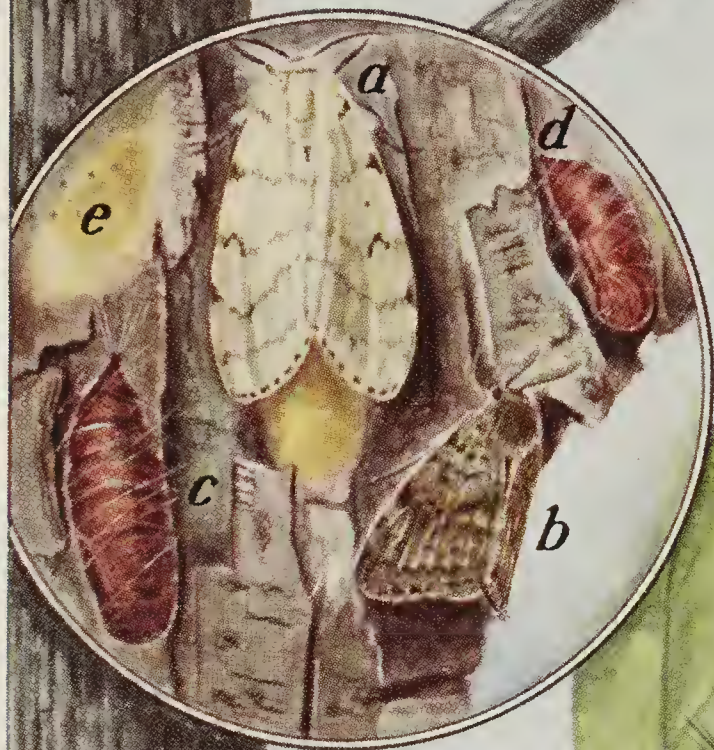


Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

GYPSY MOTH



Close-up of *a*, ovipositing female; *b*, male; *c*, female pupa; *d*, male pupa; *e*, old egg mass. Larvae on oak leaf: *f*, first instar; *g*, second instar; *h*, fourth instar; *i*, sixth instar or mature larva. Egg masses, *k*, under branches and on rock; *l*, young larvae spinning down. *a* to *i* about natural size; *k* and *l* reduced. (See other side for life history and control.)

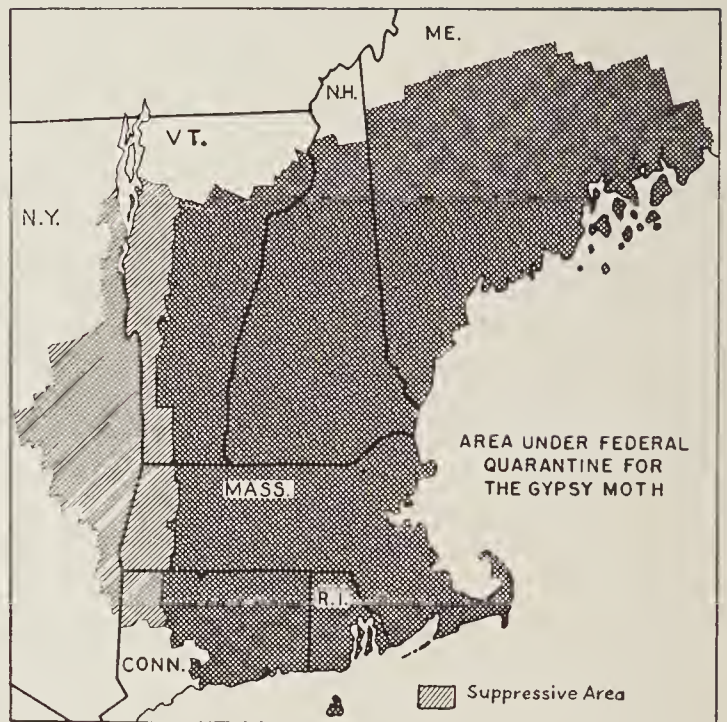
Picture Sheet No. 26

THE GYPSY MOTH

(*Porthetria dispar* (L.))

The gypsy moth is a serious pest of forest and shade trees in New England and eastern New York State. The caterpillars, or larvae, of these moths eat the leaves. The defoliation retards the growth and otherwise weakens the trees, and repeated complete defoliation will permanently injure or even kill them.

This moth was accidentally introduced into this country near Medford, Mass., in 1869. It spread rapidly through several of the Northeastern States. For many years the infested area has been under Federal quarantine. In part of this regulated area suppressive measures are being carried out in cooperation with State and local agencies.



The gypsy moth larvae usually appear about the first of May. They increase in size until by the middle of June they are 1½ to 2 inches long. They can then be recognized by several pairs of red and blue dots on their backs. Late in June or early in July they become mature and seek shady places, such as on trees or rocks, in which to pupate, or transform into moths. The moths emerge about a month later. The males are strong daytime fliers, but the females cannot fly and so lay their eggs close to the place where they issued as moths. The eggs are laid in clusters of 400 or more, which are covered with brownish hairs. The winter is passed in the egg stage.

Control

The gypsy moth can be controlled most effectively with DDT. An oil solution or an emulsion containing this insecticide is applied as a spray while the insect is in the caterpillar stage. Large forested areas are usually sprayed from aircraft. For use along highways and residential areas either mist blowers or hydraulic sprayers are suitable, and for treating low growth along stone walls and fences sprayers of the knapsack type can be employed. Early in the season the spray should be applied at the rate of 1 pound of actual DDT per acre, but after the foliage has developed ¾ pound per acre is sufficient. Information on formulations and dilutions to use with each type of equipment may be obtained from the Division of Gypsy Moth Control, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Greenfield, Mass.

CAUTION.—DDT is poisonous and should be handled with care. Store in a dry place where children and animals will not have access to it.

☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1950

November 1950

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office
Washington 25, D. C. - Price 5 cents

913859°—50